

31 July 1980

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]  
Acting National Intelligence Officer at Large

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: NIE 11-12-80

1. I read your note and am pleased with the general progress you have made on NIE 11-12-80. At least the most stupid of the footnotes are behind us. I think Tighe is foolishly hazarding the whole NIE process by putting in a claim that the Intelligence Community can't do an estimate on something on which it is not the world's leading expert and that we need some kind of supplementary work by more capable people. This argument can easily be translated to everything we do except perhaps strategic nuclear warfare and counterintelligence. I intend to get together with Gene as soon as I come back from vacation and make sure that he really wants to hold this position. (S/NF)

2. As far as his footnote "d" on page 11 is concerned, I believe the alternate table belongs in the text rather than in the executive summary. Moreover, I believe, if this is going to go into the text, there must be an explanation of where it differs line by line from the table in the text. Specifically, if DIA wants to put in four kinds of indicators for every one that we have, they need to describe in the estimate why the direction of those indicators is different from the direction of the single indicator in the text when there is such a difference; and why there are differences between the four indicators themselves when such exist. In short, we don't want a lot of material in our text that's unsubstantiated. I haven't gone through the full text in detail, but I'd like either your assurance that each of the arrows put in by DIA is explained or that you get them cracking to provide us that information to put in the main body. (S/NF)

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